

Double Bass

This *Product Close-Up* takes a look at five recently released twin bass drum pedals. These devices enable drummers to play double bass drum patterns on a single bass drum, reducing the amount of space taken up by a second bass drum. Pedals from two other manufacturers have been spotlighted previously in this column: the original double pedal, the Zalmer *Twin* (MD: Aug./Sept. '82), and the Drum Workshop 5002 (MD: Oct. '83). The new pedals are shown in ascending order of price, with the exception of the Cosmic Percussion pedal. I'll explain that when we get to it.



Pearl P882TW

Pearl's twin pedal is available complete with both the primary and auxiliary pedals, or with the auxiliary slave pedal alone (so you can utilize your own existing pedal). The *P882TW* features completely redesigned pedals. The basic *P880* has a hinged-heel footboard plus a removable toe-stop, and a chain/sprocket drive. A single expansion spring, stretched downward, is tensioned near the bottom of the pedal via a large knurled knob, and it's locked by double nuts. A large slot off the side of the pedal enables the spring to be positioned, which, in turn, varies the beater stroke length. The pedal has sprung spurs on its base, and fastens to the drum hoop using a block clamp and direct T-screw.

A large, rectangular cast aluminum clarrip connects to the primary pedal's left side via key screws. This clamp also contains the tension mechanism for the secondary pedal (also a single tensionable expansion spring), plus the beater housing for the left pedal. Both beaters supplied with the *P882TW* use hard felt; the auxiliary beater has a bent shaft for closer positioning to the center of the bass drum head. The clamp also contains a beater angle adjustment cam for the left beater.

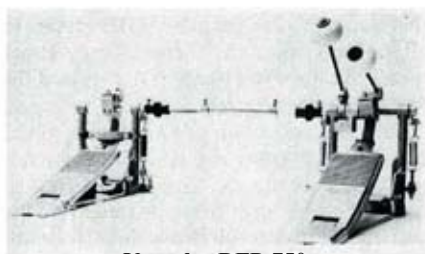
The connector rod, which links both pedals together, is telescopic and attaches

directly to the left pedal and to the clamp on the main pedal via small allen screws. Both ends of the rod have universal swivel joints to allow for various left pedal angles on the floor.

The secondary pedal is a stripped-down version of the main pedal, and is clamped onto a polycarbonate base plate. Rubber squares are placed underneath the front and back of the base plate to keep the pedal from skating away.

Pearl has designed the *P882TW* so that the main pedal can be easily removed for single-play use (simply by unclamping it). In its "slave-only" version (*P880TW*), it can be used with an existing Pearl 880, 850, 800, or 750 pedal, or almost any other pedal with a double-posted framework.

While playing the *P882TW*, I found its action to be very smooth and noiseless. There was no lag-time or binding in the secondary pedal's response. I would have preferred the connector rod to be a bit longer; its fully telescoped length is approximately 16". All in all, the pedal is intelligently engineered and does its job just fine. The complete two-pedal unit retails at \$294.



Yamaha DFP-750

As I write this, Yamaha's twin pedal, the *DFP-750*, isn't even on the market, but it will be soon. I was lucky enough to get my hands on a prototype model to test out.

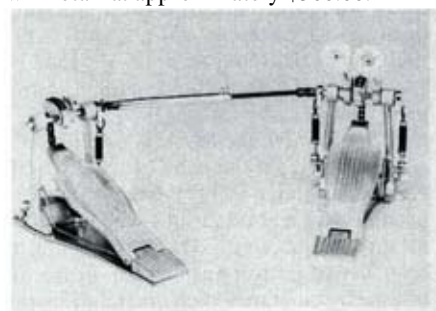
The *DFP-750* has hinged-heel footboards, synthetic strap linkages, felt beaters, and three tensionable expansion springs. One spring drives the main pedal, while the other two operate both sides of the pedal's connector rod. All are tensionable at the bottom of the pedals. The auxiliary footboard has a lighter-weight spring. Both pedal bases have sprung spurs. An angled T-screw on the side of the main pedal moves a steel piece that raises or lowers a serrated clamp plate for attaching the pedal to your bass drum. (The plate's teeth are quite sharp; beware of marring

your wooden bass drum hoops.) The secondary pedal also has this clamp plate, should you decide to use it as a separate pedal.

The left pedal clamps onto an V-shaped thick chromed support plate, with yet another set of sprung spurs. This plate also has rubber pieces at its front and back for extra non-skid protection. Given all these attachments, the left pedal is securely anchored to the floor, with little or no chance of sliding away.

Like all the other pedals, the connector rod is telescopic and has universal joints at both ends. The rod can easily be detached should you wish to use either pedal alone. From joint to joint, the rod can telescope to a maximum of 16". Angling the auxiliary pedal cuts this length down just a bit, of course.

Yamaha's *DFP-750* is very smooth and efficient. The pedals are modeled after Yamaha's *700 Series*, so there are a minimum of adjustments needed to get a good feel. Yamaha seems to have another winner here. Upon its release, the twin pedal will retail at approximately \$360.00.



Tama Camco/Tama Pro Beat

Tama has two different double pedals available: the *Camco 6935* and the *Pro Beat 6945* (shown above). The *Camco* twin pedal footboards are cast aluminum with hinged-heel plates and removable toe stops. They use a chain-drive linkage with sprocket and have single expansion springs. The primary pedal's axle has two beater hubs fitted onto it, both adjustable. One is driven by the main footboard and the other by the secondary pedal. Both felt beaters can be adjusted for stroke length at their respective spring cams. The pedal clamps onto the bass drum hoop via the common plate/T-screw method.

The left side of the main pedal holds the tension spring for the auxiliary pedal, plus has the connector rod fitted onto its

by Bob Saydlowski, Jr.

Drum Pedals

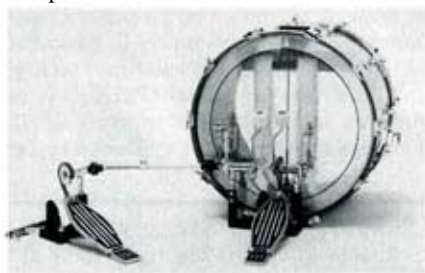
extended axle. The rod is telescopic up to 20" and locks its position with key screws. It is swivel-hinged on both sides to allow for various floor angle placements of the left pedal.

Double springs drive the auxiliary pedal—one located on the left pedal's frame, and the other on the right pedal's frame, as previously mentioned. The left-hand spring is a lighter weight than the other two on this twin pedal. All springs are user-tensionable.

The auxiliary pedal is mounted on a chromed base plate. It is fastened on at the front, but not at the heel plate. Depending upon your foot technique, this could cause some audible chattering of the metal heel plate against the metal base plate. The bottom of the base plate does not have any sort of non-skid material on it. It is simply smooth chrome, which is a definite minus when playing on certain stages, even though the pedal does have spur anchors at its front.

The two springs that operate the auxiliary pedal enable a very exacting response when playing the left side. The footboards could be a little longer; I had a hard time getting my size 11 1/2 on the heel plate without going past the toe stop. The *Camco 6935* had good action though, and I have no other complaints.

The *Pro Beat 6945* operates exactly the same as the *Camco* but has longer footboards (hooray). The chain linkages are heavier, and the beater housings are larger. On the particular pedal I played, the left beater was not working totally independent of the right. It followed the movement of the main pedal, due to binding up in the axle/beater hub connection. The *Pro Beat* has a heavier action than the *Camco*, but its footboards are definitely more comfortable to me. Both the *Camco* and *Pro Beat* twin pedals retail at \$385 each.



Sonor HLZ5382

The Sonor twin pedal is part of Sonor's

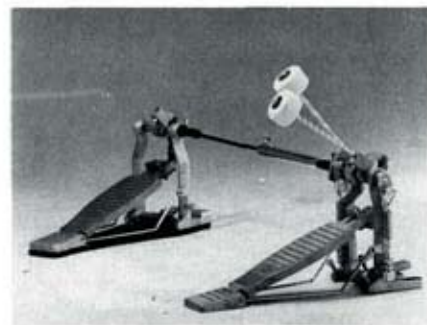
Signature Series of hardware. The *HLZ5382* has large, hinged-heel footboards with rubber-coated surfaces, as well as ribbed rubber beneath the heel plates and at the front of the pedal frames. Each footboard has a removable U-shaped toe stop. The pedals have chain/sprocket linkages, plus single expansion springs, stretched upward. The springs are tensioned and locked at the top of their assemblies. Sprung spurs are fitted on both bases. The main pedal clamps to the drum hoop using a long, angled T-screw that presses directly down on a clamping block very easy to get at. Another feature of the Sonor pedal that I really like is its adjustable-height posts, and there are three of them on the *HLZ5382*. The whole idea behind this is to raise or lower the strike point of the beaters, so they always hit the direct center of whatever size drum you're playing (or if you prefer, off center).

Like the other pedals reviewed, Sonor's connecting rod is key screw locked and has universal swivel joints. The rod fuses with the post assembly for the secondary beater, and the entire post assembly is then screwed onto the side of the primary pedal. This way, you could use the main pedal alone, simply by removing the auxiliary post. The left footboard is extendable a maximum of 23" from the main pedal. A horizontal clamp is fastened onto the left frame, presumably for attachment to a hi-hat stand to further brace the auxiliary pedal.

Both beaters supplied are felt, and both have bent shafts. The left beater can be angle-adjusted via a ratchet for equal, longer, or shorter throw.

The Sonor twin pedal is quite heavy in weight. There's a lot of solid steel in there! I liked the feel on both sides smooth and effortless. All adjustments use Sonor's slotted key screws, and there are enough adjustment points to truly allow one to "customize" the pedal for individual needs. I must mention that I had quite a fight getting the radius rod connectors into their holes on the pedal frames when setting the unit up—probably a case of mis-machining at the factory.

If you're seriously interested in the Sonor twin, you'd better start saving up. I realize that the German mark/U.S. dollar exchange is in constant fluctuation, but even so, to me a \$945 retail price is steep.



Cosmic Percussion CP507

Latin Percussion's drumset division, Cosmic Percussion, just recently released its double pedal, the *CP507*. I've put CP's pedal into this position because it's really in a different price and performance category than any of the others reviewed in this article. This imported pedal has cast hinged-heel footboards with adjustable/removable toe stops. A fat chain is used for linkage on each pedal; there is no sprocket mating with it. Both pedal bases have sprung spurs, and the usual plate/T-screw clamp is used on the primary pedal. Each beater is operated by its own single expansion spring. On the main pedal, the top of the left post branches off to hold the secondary beater housing, spring, and connector rod attachment. Both beaters have independent stroke length adjustment at their spring holders.

Once again, the connector rod is telescopic and utilizes universal swivel joints. The only difference is that it telescopes to the left instead of the right, as with the other pedals. From hinge to hinge, the rod can span approximately 19". One thing I noticed, which may not even make a difference to some, is that the left footboard sits *W* higher than the right, due to the thick, ribbed-rubber backing, which is adhered to the auxiliary pedal's base plate.

The *CP507*'s feel is not bad at all, though I thought it was a bit "tighter" than the other pedals I tested. If you don't have the bucks to spend for the other twin pedals, the *CP507* is quite a good deal at \$199.95.

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